

# News Release

Office of the Maricopa  
County Attorney



January 25, 2000

## **ROMLEY ANNOUNCES CREATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION BUREAU**

County Attorney Rick Romley announced today that he has created a Community Action Bureau within the County Attorney's Office. The resources of this new bureau will be dedicated to issues affecting the quality of life of our citizens such as anti-slum efforts, criminal abatement, graffiti eradication, illegal dumping, dust control, and other community initiatives. The bureau will work closely with community and neighborhood associations, block watch groups and local community policing teams to identify and remediate problems which lead to crime, blight, and other environmental issues. The attorneys and investigators assigned to the bureau will work proactively to address these quality of life issues utilizing innovative approaches which combine both civil sanctions and criminal prosecutions.

"Our recent successes in the fight against slumlords and graffiti have improved the quality of life of all of us. Continued emphasis on these problems and other circumstances which encourage crime and blight is necessary if we are to prevent the deterioration of our neighborhoods. The recent successful prosecution of slumlord Sherwin Seryafi was just the first step in our on-going battle," said Rick Romley.